

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 40 has been amended to be labeled as "Prior Art" as required by the Examiner. Further, Figs. 39 and 41 have also been amended to be labeled as "Prior Art".

Submitted herewith are corrected sheets of formal drawings which incorporate the amendments and annotated sheets showing the changes made thereto.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23-27 and 29 have been amended to change the word "tub" to "tab" and/or the word "said" to "the" as well as to make some additional minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the rotary crushing device of the wood crushing machine is provided at a position adjacent to the drive unit, that the tub-type feeder has a scattering prevention cover provided at a position

corresponding to the position of the rotary crushing device for covering the charging opening, and that the scattering prevention cover is arranged relative to the charging opening such that a part of the charging opening not covered by the scattering prevention cover opens in a direction opposite to an extending and crushed wood chip transfer and discharge direction of the conveyer.

Still further, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend from claim 1, instead of from now canceled claim 2.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments be approved and entered, and that the Examiner's objection to the claims be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over JP 170075 ("Masamichi et al") in view of JP 009318 (the "Admitted Prior Art"), and also over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Masamichi et al. These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a movable wood crushing machine for producing crushed wood chips by crushing charged wood is provided which comprises a vehicle body provided with a travel device for traveling, a rotary crushing device provided at one end of the

vehicle body in a traveling direction for crushing the wood into the wood chips, a tub-type feeder having a rotary tub rotatably provided on the rotary crushing device with a charging opening for charging wood to be crushed formed on an upper part thereof, a conveyer extending from a position under the rotary crushing device toward the other end of the vehicle body in the traveling direction for transferring and discharging the wood chips crushed by the rotary crushing device away from the vehicle body, and a drive unit provided between the rotary crushing device and the conveyer for driving drive sources for the travel device, the rotary crushing device, the tub-type feeder, and the conveyer. In addition, as recited in amended independent claim 1, the rotary crushing device is provided at a position adjacent to the drive unit, the tub-type feeder has a scattering prevention cover provided at a position corresponding to the position of the rotary crushing device and which only partially covers the charging opening, and the scattering prevention cover is arranged relative to the charging opening such that a part of the charging opening not covered by the scattering prevention cover opens in a direction opposite to an extending and crushed wood chip transfer and discharge direction of the conveyer.

With the structure of the claimed present invention, the scattering prevention cover (75) does not cover the entire charging opening (76) of the tub-type feeder (7) but covers only

a part thereof (see Fig. 34). Therefore, there is a possibility of chips in the feeder (7) falling out of the feeder (7) via the uncovered part of the charging opening (76). In accordance with the invention, even if this occurs, the chips that fall out do not mix with the crushed chips on the conveyor (4) because the uncovered part of the charging opening (76) opens in a direction opposite to an extending and crushed wood chip transfer and discharge direction of the conveyor (4). See Fig. 34 and the description in the specification at page 36, line 25 to page 37, line 7. In addition, it is also noted that the scattering prevention cover (75) does not have to be arranged so that the uncovered part of the charging opening (76) is exactly opposite the extending and crushed wood chip transfer and discharge direction of the conveyor (4) but must have a directional component opposite to the extending and crushed wood chip transfer and discharge direction of the conveyor, and still enable this advantage to be achieved.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited prior art does not disclose, teach or suggest a rotary tub having a charging opening which is only partially covered by a scattering prevention cover and wherein a part of the charging opening not covered by the scattering prevention cover opens in a direction opposite to an extending and crushed wood chip transfer and

discharge direction of the conveyer, as according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1.

In particular, it is respectfully pointed out that Masamichi et al does not disclose a wood crushing machine having a scattering prevention cover. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that the wood crushing machine disclosed in the Admitted Prior Art includes a scattering prevention cover, but the part of the charging opening not covered by the scattering prevention cover is opened to and faces the conveyor (see, e.g., the cover 7B of Fig. 5). As such, coarse chips which fall out of the charging opening may scatter onto the conveyor to be mixed with the crushed wood chips and thereby detrimentally impact the operation of the crushing machine.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention, as recited in amended independent claim 1 and each of claims 3-13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23-27 and 29 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over the combination of Masamichi et al and the Admitted Prior Art under 35 USC 103.

* * * * *

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Application Serial No. 10/541,709
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
220 Fifth Avenue - 16th Floor
New York, New York 10001-7708
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
DH:br/ad:encs.

FIG. 39

Prior Art

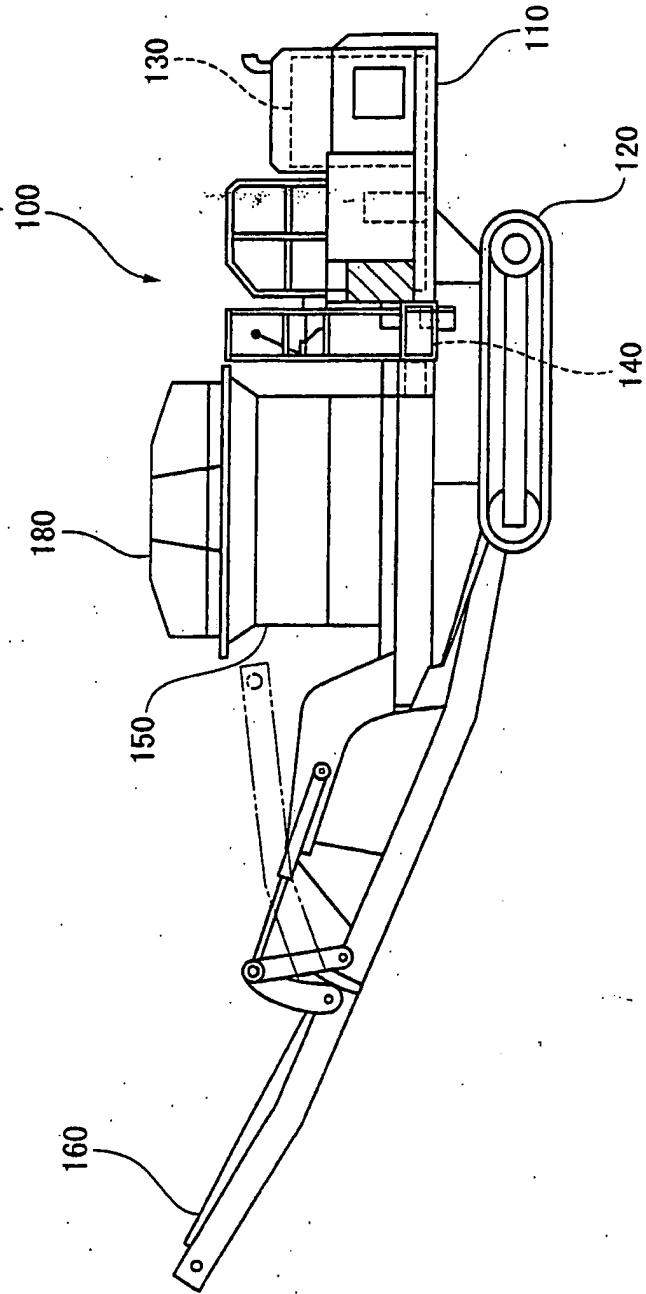


FIG. 40
Prior Art

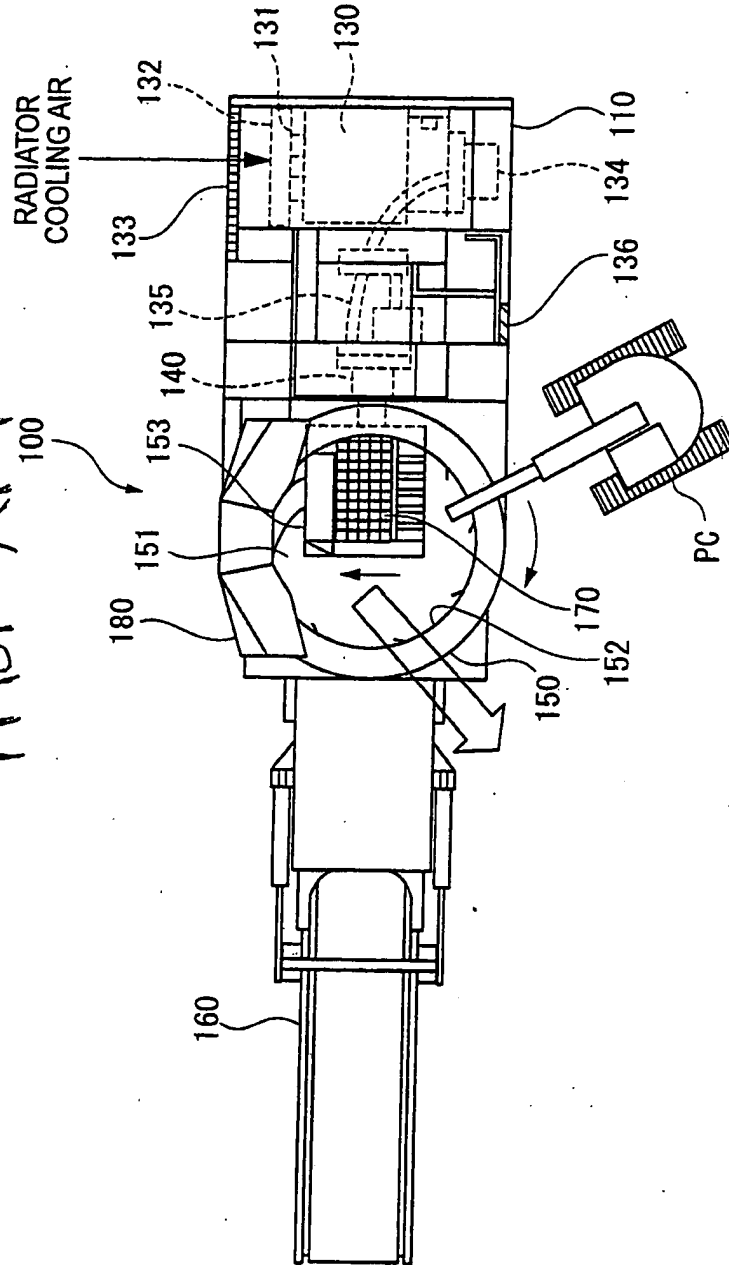


FIG. 41

Prior Art

